

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 INT-05 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20
TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
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-----059422 211427Z/15

R 200940Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9560

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1372

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, EMIN, MR
SUBJ: MAURITANIAN COPPER MINING OPERATIONS

1. MAURITANIAN NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AND MINING COMPANY
(SNIM) DIRECTOR-GENERAL AMAR TOLD EMBOFF MAY 19 THAT GIRM
HAS DECIDED TO CLOSE DOWN ALTOGETHER DEFICIT COPPER MINING
OPERATIONS AT AKJOUT APPROXIMATELY 150 MILES NORTH OF
NOUAKCHOTT. AFFECTED WILL BE 56 EXPATRIATE WORKERS
(ALMOST ENTIRELY FRENCH) 75 MAURITANIANS AND 13 LOCAL CONTRACTORS
(MOSTLY SENECALESE) ALL OF WHOM ARE EXPECTED TO BE LAID
OFF BY END OF MAY.

2. CLOSING OF OPERATION HAD BEEN CONSIDERED A POSSIBILITY EVER
SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOCIETE NATIONALE INDUSTRIELLE ET
MINIERE (SNIM) WOULD DIVEST ITSELF OF UNPROFITABLE ACTIVITIES.
MAURITANIANS TOOK OVER MINING OPERATIONS IN 1975 WHEN PRIVATE
BRITISH COMPANY (CHARTER GROUP) OPERATING MINE AT SUBSTANTIAL
LOSS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO LEAVE. GIRM DECISION TO OPERATE
MINE ITSELF WAS BASED MORE ON WISH TO MAINTAIN VILLAGE OF
AKJOUT (SEDENTARY POPULATION 9,817 NOMADIC 10,000) AS
VIALE COMMUNITY THAN ON ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS.

3. IN CONVERSATION MAY 19, AWIR, WHO HAS OFTEN NOTED THE
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DIFFICULTY OF COVERING THE OPERATIONS' LOSSES FOR THREE YEARS
CONFIRMED CLOSING. STATED DECISION WAS YET TO BE MADE ON
CONTINUATION OF A SMALL EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT INVOLVING SUFLIDES
TO INCREASE COPPER YIELDS.

KRYZA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X

Capture Date: 01 jan 1994

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: COPPER, CLOSING OF OFFICES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 20 may 1978

Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960

Decapton Note:

Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

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Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A

Expiration:

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Format: TEL

From: NOUAKCHOTT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

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To: STATE

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Review Markings:

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